

Patriot's Pride

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The Patriot Brigade Family Readiness Group Quarterly Newsletter



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Acting Brigade Commander, COL BONGI

One thing that certainly remains constant with the Patriot Brigade is change! While COL Davis is deployed in theater, I am serving as the Brigade Commander. This will be a year-long assignment and if I haven't already, I will have the opportunity to meet all of you. I am stationed in New Jersey as the Division's Chief of Staff, and I will continue to visit the Brigade's units both at Drum and Devens each month. I am no stranger to the "North Country" as some years ago, I had the pleasure of being a Battalion Commander with the 10th Mountain Division and I remember all too well both of Fort Drum's seasons: July and Winter.

In the last two weeks I've had the pleasure of presiding over two Battalion Changes of Command, and for both, I could have sworn I was in Miami with the unusually warm weather.

In all seriousness, my hat goes off to both LTC Miyako Schanely, and LTC Pete VerSteege for outstanding tours as Commanders. I am amazed to think that during these recent times of "difficulty" in recruiting, LTC Schanely has kept her unit at or near 100% strength! That is a true testament that quality attracts quality and leaves me confident knowing that, even thought she is departing, the unit will continue on with a base of solid Officers and NCOs. I'm confident that MAJ(P) Chris Boulio will continue to do great things with 2-213 LSB. I look forward to pinning a black oak leaf on Chris' BDUs when I am at Fort Drum in July. LTC VerSteege has done a great job with 3-309 CS/CSS, and as outstanding leaders do, he has left behind a fully trained and mission focused unit. I am so confident in his staff of Officers and NCOs, that I will have his XO, MAJ Walenesky, serve as the MAT Chief until the IRMTC cycles for this fiscal year conclude. With his departure, we get another outstanding Officer, LTC Al Williams,



who I am sure will continue to ensure that 3-309 CS/CSS is a top performing organization.

All of us have heard and eagerly anticipate the Army's proposed force structure changes. Those at Fort Drum see visible evidence of change as scores of buildings are erected for a new Brigade Combat team. With the release of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) report both the Division's and First Army's Headquarters are slated to move. There is no doubt that there are changes ahead for both the Division and First Army, but from all of the information provided thus far, I can tell you that there does not appear that these changes will greatly impact our mission at the Training Support Brigade level. The Army Reserve is adapting and improving and the Division and our Brigade will continue to be at the forefront of this change and do what we do best; Train Soldiers!

One principle that remains certain to me is the dedication, loyalty and commitment of all Patriot Brigade Soldiers, Civilians and Family Members. Your reputation precedes you and you are known throughout the CONUSAs as consummate professionals. I want to thank those who have family members serving in Iraq. I can assure you that we will continue to provide any and all support they need as they serve with distinction.

While modifications in our delivery of training support may lie ahead you can rest assured that as long as there are Army Reserve and Army National Guard units stationed in New York and the New England states, there will be plenty of work for the Patriot Brigade. Indeed, as change is an Army staple so too is the quality of this Patriot Brigade and those individuals who make it the great unit that it is. Again, I look forward to meeting all of you as the next few months' progress.

PATRIOTS!

Message from our Acting Brigade CSM, CSM KITTELSON

Patriots,

I would like to start this article off by saying thank you to all of the 2nd Brigade soldiers for their support and help while I fill the shoes of the Brigade Command Sergeant Major. It has been a great experience so far, and has given me the opportunity to learn a lot about the Brigade, its missions, and its soldiers that make it such a great Brigade. As I stated to my Battalion and to the soldiers of the Brigade HHD, no number of stripes or stars gives you knowledge of everything. I know things that each of you do not know, and all of you know things I do not know. However it does neither of us any good if we don't share that knowledge and work together to do our jobs better, make training better, ensure the soldiers we OC/T can do their jobs better than before, and most importantly, to give the soldiers the knowledge and skills to defend this wonderful country.

I would next like to give each of you an idea of what items I plan on focusing on until my replacement arrives. First and foremost we have accomplished one of my first missions and that was getting our NCOERs up to date. We are the first, and only Brigade at this time to have "O" late NCOERs. During LCW CSM Lowry bragged about our Brigade reaching this milestone, and told the other CSMs to get with me to see how I accomplished this task. Well the first part of my answer was having soldiers and leaders that care. As many of you know my motto is "*Taking Care of Soldiers*". I do not take this lightly, and try my best to do everything I can to make sure our soldiers are taken care of so they can do their mission. The next part of the answer was, "If Division is telling you that you have 10 late NCOERs - do you know which ones they are?" Numbers mean nothing without a name attached to it. I have been using a tool called ITRS since I was a platoon sergeant. This reporting system is a great way for leaders to track the status of various soldier related training and readiness issues and it can be accessed from anywhere. I hear the complaints about RLAS and its all the system's fault. Well sorry - I don't accept that answer, and our reports and ratings prove that if the leaders care, and a little effort is put forth, the data can be reliable, and the data can be used as a very effective leader book, and management



tool. All of the BN CSMs have had training on this and are working hard on the projects I have them doing to clean up each area, thus taking care of our most important asset... you, the soldiers of 2nd Brigade. The next areas I am focusing on are the APFT results and getting soldiers scheduled for the proper NCOES. There is no reason why soldiers with more than 12 months TIG are not scheduled!

I would like to congratulate all of the soldiers who have been promoted this past year, and especially to those newly promoted Sergeants. We will be holding an NCO induction Ceremony soon at Ft. Drum, to properly induct these newly promoted soldiers into the NCO Corp. I have the induction ceremony on my battalion collaboration site if anyone wants to review it. I will also be having an NCO call in the month of July to gather ideas from the NCO on ways to sustain, improve, and come up with new ideas for the brigade.

I would also like to thank everyone for our Brigade Fun Run on 3 June 05. I was very pleased with the turnout and as stated plan on doing a Brigade PT event once a month. Remember physical fitness is an individual responsibility; let's see if we can't get to 100% APFT pass rate!

I would also just like to say a heartfelt thanks to all of our family members. We all know it, and rarely tell you how much we appreciate your support and patience with the missions we are tasked with. We also know, no amount of equipment, supplies, bullet, bombs, aircraft, or amount of technology will win any war, if the family members are not there supporting us every step of the way. Thank you for all of the sacrifices you make each day for the soldiers of the 2nd Brigade.

If there is anything I can do for each of you feel free to use your chain of command or NCO support channel, or my open door to discuss. Let's all make sure we keep our soldiers deployed to Iraq, as well as every soldier and civilian in our thoughts and prayers. I will leave each of you with this thought. When you are headed home each night, ask yourself this question: "What did I do today to make this a better Army?"

Thanks,
Ron Kittelson
Acting Brigade Command Sergeant Major

Patriot Families and Friends,

This is a quick note to let you know that members of the Public Order Division (PO Div) Special Police Transition Team (SPTT) are doing well despite sporadic enemy contact, 110 degree temperatures and challenging work.

Of note, 3/1 Public Order Battalion SPTT in Samarra was recently involved in the defense of an Iraqi Police Station with its unit against a sustained Anti-Iraqi Force attack. Our Soldiers sustained no injuries and fought bravely along side their Iraqi unit and reinforcements from Task Force 3-69 Armor. During the course of events, one of the SPTT vehicles was hit by an Improvised Explosive Device. The up-armored vehicle performed as expected and protected driver, gunner and vehicle commander from harm.

Also of note, a month ago we received 2 x 8 men SPTTs composed entirely of Marines. The Marines are assigned to Fallujah (1/1 POB SPTT) and Ramadi (2/2 POB SPTT) and are doing wonderfully. This week SGM Sharpe and 8 other replacements from First Army arrived to fill out teams that have operated short-handed the past 2 and $\frac{1}{2}$ months. SGM Sharpe has linked up with his team (1 PO Bde SPTT) and the other replacements have joined their respective teams in 2 & 3 PO Bdes. We will be sending an updated manning roster within a day or two as soon as assignments have been confirmed with 3 PO Bde SPTT.

You should all be extremely proud of the work the SPTTs are doing. They have had a tremendous impact on their respective PO units. The PO units are very active and are



fighting with distinction wherever they are assigned. In fact, the PO units regularly capture more detainees and equipment per week than the five other Coalition Divisions combined. These men are Iraqi patriots with a warrior ethos who have proven themselves worthy of our respect. We are proud to be advising them and fighting by their side. As they get better each day we get closer to the time when they will be in charge of the fight and we will all be on the sidelines cheering them on.

Finally, our leave program has begun and the first two Patriot Soldiers are on their way home to spend two weeks with their families. Over the next six to seven months all Soldiers will have the opportunity to take leave. We all look forward to leave and reunion with our loved ones. You are in thoughts and prayers and we miss you all.

God bless.

COL Skip Davis

Patriot 6



BRIGADE MINISTRY TEAM

Greetings from Chaplain (LTC) Walter McGehee/SFC Reinhart Meyers your Brigade Unit Ministry Team

We know we have a number of our Brigade Soldier's far away from home. We also know we have able and competent leaders watching for their safety and insuring their missions are carried out efficiently, carefully and safely. That is important for us to know and understand back in the United States.

In the days before Christ, Joshua was also a concerned leader. When it was time for him to take over as leader of Israel, he needed assurance that God would be with him as God had been previously been with Moses. The Israelites as always concerned knew that Moses had divine direction during the time that he was away from Family and friends. But what about Joshua? God promised Joshua as is written, "As I was with Moses, I will always be with you, I will never abandon you. Be determined and be confident" (JOSHUA 1:5-6) So wherever our Soldiers are, whatever bold endeavor we are involved in, or whatever spiritual battle we may face, we have the confidence that God is with us. What's more, He guides, protects, and leads us, always watching for our protection.

Please consider what God can do in your life! If there is anything we can do for you please call Chaplain McGehee at 607-785-5801, or SFC Meyers at 315-772-6136, Office in Bldg T321, or Home at 315-493-1016 or e-mail to rmeyers1@twcny.rr.com [<mailto:rmeyers1@twcny.rr.com>](mailto:rmeyers1@twcny.rr.com).

We thank you for your support

FAMILY READINESS

At this month's FRG meeting we had a book swap. Everyone who attending brought a book and a covered dish. There were books for all ages. Everyone traded in their old books and got new ones. LTC Maeder introduced COL Bonggi to the group. COL Bonggi will be replacing COL Davis for the duration of the deployment. The children who came sat in the back they watched cartoons and played.

Hello everyone, Summer is here a little early in the North Country. I hope you have managed to cool off from time to time. We will not be having a Combined Brigade FRG meeting in June, but we will do an outdoor picnic at the playground behind Pine Plains Gym in July (info will follow when I get the date reserved). You may not have gotten word that Remington Pond is open already, with lifeguards and a new waterslide that is much more child-friendly. The water is always cool there; it is a spring fed pond. Family Day at Remington Park is on Monday June 27, a fun day for kids. There are all sorts of activities going on there; it is a bunch of fun. And my favorite part is that Remington Park is close, rarely crowded, and free! June is a busy time with school ending, Mountainfest, and summer vacationing. Give Mountainfest a try, another of my favorite free activities! It is on Thursday, June 30. It is down on Nash Blvd (the same road that our meetings have been on). The day is filled with food (to buy) and activities for kids, military displays, and a concert with fireworks at 8:30. Bring a chair or blanket, the ground there is pretty rough! I hope to see you at one of these great community events! And remember, the Family Readiness Groups are there for you. Please get involved. Your experiences may help another family get through a tough day. See you around,
Lee



**Lee Shattuck, LTC Maeder, COL Bonggi
At the monthly FRG meeting**

BATTALIONS



3-309 at the FOB site.

3-309

Prior to deploying it is essential for the soldiers to receive the training they need to prepare them for deployment. Soldiers constantly have scenarios everyday that requires them to make quick decisions and responses. In any situation there is a right way and a wrong way to react.

Fort Drum is an Individual Replacement Mobilization Training Center (IRMTC) for deployment to operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom and the Fort Drum Mobilization Assistance Team (MAT) has the mission of training IRMTC soldiers. The First U.S. Army,

which is the MACOM for Fort Drum IRMTC, requires that training be done in a "Theater Immersion" environment.

To achieve this, the MAT built a Forward Operating Base (FOB) in Training Area 5A and conducts eight out of nineteen days of training for each IRMTC task force in the FOB. During the eight days, the IRMTC soldiers encounter opposing forces (OPFOR), Civilians on the Battlefield (COBs), call to prayer (sung in Arabic) five times a day, and conduct "presence patrols" in the IRMTC Area of Operations (AOR) outside the FOB.

On Saturday, 20 May 2005, the IRMTC Task Force 10130 conducted a presence patrol through Fort Drum's Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) site, which they were told was the village of "Ash Shulah". The Task Force was armed with blanks and Multiple Integrated Laser Equipped

Systems (MILES). The MOUT site that morning was

populated by 24 Range Control employees playing COBs. They COBs were armed only with garbage, which they tossed at the trucks of the passing IRMTC soldiers with the "mission" of provoking an overreaction.



Soldiers portray "Cobs" at the MOUT Site.

The actions of the COBs were all planned and rehearsed but the one wild card in these events is what the soldiers in the Task Force will do and think. SSG James Justus of the Headquarters and Headquarters Troop of the 278th Armor Cavalry Regiment Forward 2 said, "I knew there was something up when he first rode into the village because there was no children and if the parents are hiding the children they must be planning something dangerous." Actually, the MAT was unable to get around the liability issue for bringing children to the MOUT site, but apparently that all fit the scenario.



"Cobs" engage the enemy



As the convoy moves through the Mout Village an angry mob of civilians try to block their passage. The civilians armed only with garbage, begin throwing the garbage at the convoy and the Soldiers. The mob then forms a barrier using

only furniture and themselves to block the road.

The purpose of this exercise was to see what reaction the Soldiers would give. The correct reaction was for the convoy to find an alternative route around the mob using no violence.

To their credit, the IRMTC soldiers did not violate the rules of engagement but the COBs were also wearing MILES, just in case. "When Soldiers encounter a stressful environment



Protestors block the way of the Convoy.

of angry civilians, there is no way to predict how they will react. We had two convoys move through today and both acted differently to the stress. Our goal is to provide the Soldiers with a sense of how it would feel in real life." SSG Walker and SFC Hulette of the 3-309 who were trainers for this exercise. Below are some photos that were taken during these exercises.



3-309 FOB site

Civilians in the Spotlight

The 2nd Brigade would not be what it is without our Civilian employees. In many cases they are the continuity and strength behind the successes of any mission.

Mrs. Verna Burkman works in the brigade S1 shop as a Human Resource Manager. She is responsible to process all evaluations, enlisted and officer, active component and reserve, as well as all awards throughout the brigade.

Mr. Jim Lawlor is a Budget Analyst in the brigade S8 section. Jim helps maintain control of funds, spending, and TDY orders and settlements and serves as the Program Manager for the Bank of America Travel Card program.

PROMOTIONS!!!

2-313th:

SSG Prado, Neal

SSG Vanzile, Priscilla

SGT Smith, Corey

SGT Bovay, Matthew

3-309th

SSG Walker, Rebecca

SSG Michael Coonce

SGT Lawrence Frascella

1-314

MSG Empey 1 March

MSG Fuller 1 April

MSG Ernst 1 June

3-310 Devens

SFC Hewlett

SGT Manca

SGT Kunert promoted to SSG- HHD



Change Of Command Ceremonies



LTC Schanely Says Farewell

2-313

3-309



LTC Versteeg Says Goodbye

News Flash!

How Much Will SGLI Increase By?

The maximum level of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage will be increased from \$250,000 to \$400,000 on September 1, 2005.

Who Will Be Affected?

Anyone in service on September 1, 2005, will have their coverage increased to \$400,000, even if they previously declined or elected lesser coverage. If they still desire no coverage or less than the maximum, they will have to go their Personnel Office and re-elect no coverage or less than the maximum.

How Will The Increase Affect VGLI members?

Members in the VGLI Program before September 1, 2005 will not be affected. However, all separating servicemembers covered under SGLI on or after September 1, 2005 in an amount greater than \$250,000 will be able to convert to VGLI at the new higher level. For example:

How Much Will The Additional Coverage Cost?

The premium rates for SGLI coverage will remain the same. Currently, the rate is 6.5 cents per \$1,000 per month, or \$16.25 per month for \$250,000. Therefore, if a member elects the new maximum coverage of \$400,000, they will pay \$26.00 per month.

Will The Increase Be Retroactive To A Specific Date?

Yes. The Department of Defense will be paying a death gratuity of \$150,000 for deaths that occurred in specified combat conditions on or after October 7, 2001 but before September 1, 2005 or were incurred in the theater of operations of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. This gratuity is in addition to the existing Department of Defense death gratuity that is increasing from \$12,420 to \$100,000 for the same group of servicemembers.

Up Coming Events

Tickets for the Keith Urban concert on 5

Aug (Watertown ballpark) can be purchased at two locations on Fort Drum: MWR Financial Window, 2d floor Clark Hall, Monday-Friday, 0800-1600, and Parks and Recreation, Monday-Friday, 1000-1730, Saturdays and Holidays 0800-1530.

Additionally, military can purchase tickets directly from DPAO located on Davidson Street in Watertown by showing their military ID. The cost is \$20 per ticket (normal price is \$37). By purchasing a ticket for the concert, you will be given free admission to the festival on Saturday beginning at 1300 at the Watertown Arena.

Post- Wide Yard Sales: has been scheduled for 25 Jun 05 and 20 Aug 05 from 0800-1400 in all on- and off-post housing areas. CLO will advertise the event in the Watertown Times. Proper identification will still be needed to access this event.

PATRIOT IMPERATIVES

The following eight imperatives are essential to realizing the vision I have for the Patriot Brigade. Each imperative is what Patriot Soldiers and Leaders are, do, or demonstrate everyday.

Prepared, professionals always. Certified, cross-trained. Never quit before reaching the standard or accomplishing the mission. Never accept substandard.

Attitude - positive, enthusiastic, caring. Proud of who we are and what our unit does. Care for Family, subordinates, buddies, unit. Inspire same attitude and pride in those we train and support.

Trainers and training managers par excellence. Know and use FM 7-0, FM 7-1. Plan, prepare and execute doctrinally correct, challenging, realistic, performance-oriented training - safe and to standard. Use 10-step training model.

Role models in terms of living Army values (LDRSHIP) and Warrior Ethos, and demonstrating technical competence, physical fitness, and bearing.

Innovative, creative in our approach to training design and execution. Focused on combat conditions. Focused on constant improvement of unit and subordinates' skills and leadership potential.

O/C-Ts who know and enforce Army and unit standards - training, readiness (equipment and personnel), and safety. Effective in executing AARs and in providing oral and written feedback.

Team players within the Patriot Brigade. Team players with Fort Drum units and all with whom they work.

Subject Matter Experts who provide the units we train and support the breadth of our expertise. Always improving personal knowledge base and skills.

Soldiers Creed

I am an American Soldier.

I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first

I will never accept defeat

I will never quit

I will never leave a fallen comrade

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills. I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.